

REMARKS

In regard to section 1 of the office action, the features of claim 8 are shown in the drawings. Fig. 5 shows two plates 10a, 10b. The examiner is directed to page 10, lines 8-14 of the detailed description. The examiner is requested to withdraw his objection to the drawings.

In regard to section 2 of the office action, all of the objections to the claims have been addressed above by the claim amendments except as noted below. Claim 1 does not positively recite the connection terminal. The connection terminal is only inferentially recited. There is nothing wrong with this type of claiming. In regard to claim 4, the patent application clearly describes the seal being in the terminal (see page 9, lines 10-12 for example). In regard to claim 8, the features are shown in Fig. 5.

Claims 1, 5, 7 and 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hamai et al. (US 2002/0127912 A1). Claims 2-4, 6 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hamai et al. (US 2002/0127912 A1) in view of Makita et al. (US 5,611,706). The examiner is requested to reconsider these rejections.

The examiner stated that Hamai et al. shows a single tubular seal (not labeled) on the wire (4B and 4C). It is unclear from Hamai et al. what the tubular items on wires (4B and 4C) are. It appears they are spacers for locating the wires and terminals (5B and 5C) in the larger tube like structures/holes (not numbered) shown in the bottom of the housing 7 in Fig. 1. Hamai et al. certainly does not disclose that they are seals.

Thus, Hamai et al. does not "anticipate" the features of claim 1. Assuming, for the sake of argument, that the tubular structures (not labeled) on the wires (4B and 4C) are seals, there is still no disclosure or suggestion that the seals (not labeled) are inserted into the multi-terminal seal 12. Claim 1 claims a single-unit seal of tubular shape, partially surrounding the connection wire and inserted at least partially into one of the through-holes of the multi-terminal seal. There is no disclosure or suggestion in the cited art that the tubular structures (not labeled) on the wires (4B and 4C) in Hamai et al. is inserted at least partially into one of the through-holes of the multi-terminal seal as recited in claim 1. In fact, looking at the drawings of Hamai et al., the size of the holes 23, 24 in the seal 12 appear much too small to receive the relatively large tubular structures (not labeled). The holes 23, 24 appear, instead, to be sized and shaped to only receive the smaller front ends of the terminals 5A-5C. In addition, Hamai et al. simply does not address the problem of differences in wire and terminal dimensions and how that impacts sealing which the present invention addresses by having one seal inside another seal.

Though dependent claims 2-10 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claims 11-12 have been added above to claim the features recited therein.

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For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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1/17/07
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